

Decisive party backing for Chancellor's strategy

The Labour Party conference yesterday gave the Government the decisive support it sought for its economic strategy. After a vehement defence of the past by Mr Healey, the Chancellor, and

the promise of two packages of economic concessions to come, the delegates, led by the block-voting trade unions, gave the Government victory on every essential point.

Two concessionary packages are promised

By David Wood, Political Editor

more politicians and men of the Labour Party confided yesterday afternoon in opening of their annual conference with the rank and file that this year's party conference was already virtually over and that all the rocks and party managers are heirs ad be avoided by skilful gaffing.

full week's agenda still timed, but with luck the conference would now turn into a rally appropriate for the back to a general election year.

There is a lot of experience that assessment. Yesterday the Government had to one or two motions crucial to Mr Callaghan, the Cabinet Parliamentary Labour Party, trade union movement and the electoral wellbeing of the constituency Labouries. The motions had to do the economy: ministerial of the abundant blessings to come, and rank-and-file socialism abandoned, in public expenditure, a popular fall in people's standard of living and the inordinately high level of unemployment.

led by the trade unionists, the Government hands down on every point. The Chancellor, the Exchequer and Mrs Barbara Castle, the seniorister whom Mr Callaghan served when he became Minister, both played a part in the platform. Mr Hugh Scanlon, of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, is almost heroic contrast.

Mr Healey, who because he is a member of the national executive committee was denied a seat on the platform, went happily to the delegates' room to make his short speech defending the Government's submission to the economic terms of the International Monetary Fund.

held down incomes to acceptable level, he promised, there could be what he reflected. More than that: references, one this autumn in the Finance Bill next year. The people's sacrifice of living would be rewarded. Next year a new life in the land of Nod: the Prime Minister's promised land would be reached.

objective was to help to something called the resolution 25 on economic strategy. It expressed the desire for the measures to be supported by the Government to come the country's financial aid, and it was without saying in the bill, although Mr Healey said it, that the crises



The Chancellor vehemently defending his strategy from the conference rostrum.

were inherited from the 1970-74 Conservative government.

The resolution went on to recognise, however, that the Government's economic strategy had not been fully understood or accepted by most of the British people. It then urged immediate action on the totally unacceptable high level of unemployment, greater financial help to local authorities to restore cuts in public expenditure and strict control of prices at all levels.

Composite resolution 26 was altogether different. Mr Healey, and all the party managers who sat on the platform above him, wanted it returned to the national executive committee.

No wonder. Composite 26 spoke of a totally unacceptable record level of unemployment, a reduction in real wages of 12 per cent since January 1972, cuts in public spending that had seriously damaged working-class interests and by no means the lowest level of taxation.

Bliss and brave as ever, Mr Healey faced the thin band of constituency critics who wanted an immediate return to full-blooded socialism, with all the reflection (or reflation) that would require. He stood his ground. Free negotiation for wages without responsibility would ruin the hope of socialism. He wanted to ensure 10 more years of Labour and socialist government. This was no time to throw away the rewards of the sacrifices workers had made.

As Mr Healey saw it, the battle of inflation had been already won, if only the socialists would be patient. Some excited observers thought Mr Healey had virtually

committed the Government to a general election next year, but he later amply qualified that impression. "I ran out of spit", he said, "and should have said a general election in the coming year, not the coming year." But for all sensible politicians, the Chancellor had it right the first time.

Mr Scanlon deserves a life peacock for the generosity of his support for Mr Healey. "One of our problems is that people talk about the world not as it is, but as it should be", said. Such are party conferences.

Mrs Castle had a different, but no less difficult role. She had to help to carry composite 25 and kill composite 26, but by going along with the conference. An innocent would have thought at some points that she was Mr Healey's worst enemy. She was not. She went with the current, against which Mr Healey had been obliged to swim, and the conference decisions were precisely what the platform had intended.

At the end of the day one or two things were certain. Mr Healey will bring in tax concessions, still undecided, in the autumn, and further concessions next spring, although he dismisses the suggestion that any Labour government would dream of introducing a Conservative-type pre-election budget.

The Treasury appears to want cuts in indirect taxation because of the predictable rise in the retail prices index next spring, but the political argument seems to be swinging towards cuts in direct taxation. Mr Healey almost said so openly.

More than tax cuts needed, unions say

By Paul Roudedge

our Editor

he Government is to come under pressure from the unions to expand public expenditure, as cut taxes in its long-term package of economic measures. The TUC economic committee will next week draw up a spring list of demands to put to Mr Healey, based on increased state spending to provide union reaction to the Chancellor's speech yesterday sympathetic but reserved. Leaders were disappointed that he did not spell more clearly the measures

he intends to take to reduce unemployment, which they regard as having higher priority than wage restraint.

Mr Alan Fisher, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, said the Treasury minister's speech lacked any positive proposals to overcome unemployment. He criticized the cuts in public spending "made at the behest of the International Monetary Fund", about which Mr Healey had been so blustering.

"I would sooner see a restoration of the public expenditure cuts than tax cuts because I believe that would have a greater effect on unemployment than simply putting money into people's pockets", he added.

In talks with the Chancellor next week the TUC economic committee is expected to seek increases in public spending and tax cuts, and the Government will be asked to bring in capital spending projects that would assist the construction, steelmaking and heavy engineering industries. Steelworkers' leaders are also insisting that imports, now running at 4.7 million tonnes a year, should be curtailed.

The basis of the TUC's proposals is to be found in the General and Municipal Workers'

motion, adopted by the conference, more radical measures to use the full resources of the National Enterprise Board, subsidies for unemployed young people up to the age of 25, and "substantial restoration" of the public sector capital programme, particularly construction.

But in return the Chancellor cannot look too confidently to the unions to abide by his limit of 10 per cent on earnings increases.

Printers' and journalists' claims, page 4 Conference report, page 5 Diary, page 14 Leading article, page 15

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Abies spreads more eas of France

By Ian Murray

abies has been confirmed further 38 departments of France. Seventy-seven departments out of the 95 in the country are now affected. The Government's Journal des Départements, listing the new departments involved, repeats that it requires all dogs and cats these areas to be on a lead in the street and that must wear a muzzle. Poodles are to be securely caged and all livestock should be kept stable.

stematic fox hunts are carried out and only those authorized to take part are led into the zone being red.

abies appeared in France in the Moulou region on May 26. Since then it has been adding southwards and westwards at a rate of around 20 a year.

Benn attack on 'powers of patronage'

An attack on the patronage powers of prime ministers was made by Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, when he addressed prospective parliamentary Labour candidates in Brighton. He said that it took 40 million people to elect 365 members of the Commons, yet the last seven prime ministers had appointed 750 years, each with a vote in Parliament.

General Prem Chand, who commanded the United Nations forces in the Congo in 1962 and Cyprus in 1970, will be appointed this week as the United Nations representative in the Rhodesia settlement negotiations. General Chand, who is 61, is a retired Indian officer. He will work closely with Britain's special representative, Field Marshal Lord Carver.

Israeli warning to US

Israeli Government sources say there will be no new Geneva peace conference unless what they see as an American shift towards the Palestinians is reversed. Israel is pinning its hopes on a meeting tomorrow between Mr Dayan and President Carter.

Meeting at Lord's 'was charade'

Mr Kerry Packer accused the Australian Cricket Board of Control of being interested only in perpetuating its power when he gave evidence in the High Court, in London. He described a meeting with the International Cricket Conference at Lord's in June as a "charade". They had not wanted any form of compromise.

John Peel charge

Three men dug up the grave of John Peel at Calbeck, Cumbria, to obtain cheap publicity for the cause of anti-hunting. It was alleged at Wigton Magistrates' Court. A note found suggested that it was an act of revenge on behalf of foxes killed by Peel.

Reggio Calabria: This year's 52 murders, nine kidnappings and 300 violent attacks lead to demands for a parliamentary debate.

Uganda: A refugee from President Amin's reign of terror says he was forced to leave 20 fellow prisoners to death.

Lebanon: Gloom around Tyre's fortress as a city "republic" sees its end at hand.

Manufacturers to invest £6,500m

Manufacturing companies are planning to spend up to £6,500m on new investment next year, according to a Department of Industry survey. This would represent a rise of between 12 and 17 per cent on the figure expected for this year.

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Golden Hind search

Archaeologists started a six-week dig at Deptford to try to find Drake's Golden Hind. Elizabeth I ordered the ship to be preserved as a monument to posterity but it was left drifting in the Royal Naval Dockyard.

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Tiger experts: Britain exported 21 home-bred tigers last year, a government report stated.

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HOME NEWS

Mr Packer accuses the Australian cricket board of power hunger

By John Hennessy
Sports Editor

Mr Kerry Packer, the cricket promoter, described the Australian Cricket Board of Control (ACB), as "self-centred and only interested in perpetuating their power", when he gave evidence in the High Court yesterday. "Anything that puts a threat into that area is something they will fight against like Kilkenny cats", he said.

Mr Packer appeared throughout the sixth day of actions brought by himself and three of his players against the cricket authorities. He was still being cross-examined when the hearing was adjourned until today.

Much of the evidence turned on the question of exclusivity of television coverage in Australia and the purpose of a meeting he had had with the International Cricket Conference (ICC) at Lord's in June, a meeting described by Mr Packer as a "charade".

Mr Michael Kempster, QC, leading for the defendants, the ICC and the Test and County Board (TCCB), suggested that the meeting had been dependent, so far as Mr Packer was concerned, on his securing exclusive television rights. Mr Packer replied: "I suggest to you that is a dishonest way of putting it."

Mr Packer maintained that he had made all the sacrifices. When he had yielded the point at the start of the meeting that the control of his matches should rest with the ACB, it had come as a great shock to the meeting. They had not wanted a compromise "in any way, shape or form" and had scrambled around for an excuse

to terminate the meeting, he said.

Answering questions from Mr Justice Slade, Mr Packer said the forthcoming series would cost about \$A4m (£2.4m) in the coming Australian summer, a little less the next year, and a little more the year after that because of inflation. The total for the three years would be about \$A12m (£7.2m). If the series did not go ahead his "good will, prestige and belief" would be destroyed". He would face a loss of about \$A8m (£4.8m).

Discussing a meeting with the ACB television negotiating committee in Australia, Mr Packer said he did not believe that the committee had been morally bound by an undertaking with the Australian Broadcasting Commission, the non-commercial channel, since the deal had not been ratified by the ACB.

He did agree to having said: "There's a little bit of a whine in all of us. Do you mean the money has no appeal?"

The televising of the series would be accompanied by several progressive changes, he said. There would be eight cameras instead of the usual five, giving a view over the bowler's head at both ends. Small radio microphones would be used to pick up sounds other than those of bat and ball.

"Heavy breathing?", Mr Kempster asked. "Even heavy grunting", Mr Packer replied.

He said English cricket would benefit if Test players took part in his series and then reclaimed their place in the England team. Lesser players would be lucky to have had the experience of touring Pakistan and New Zealand this (English) winter.

Membership of British Communist Party falls

By a Staff Reporter

Membership of the Communist Party has declined significantly in the past two years, according to figures published today.

The report of the party's executive committee to the annual congress, which begins on November 12, says that since the congress in August, 1975, membership has gone down from 28,519 to 25,293.

Circulation of the party's newspaper, the *Morning Star*, has also declined despite considerable efforts to expand it.

During the past year the Communist Party published its

programme, *The British Road to Socialism*, and organized a People's Jubilee, which attracted 11,000 people. At the end of 1976/77 there were student branches in 55 universities and colleges and total student membership was about 700.

The executive committee of the Communist Party describes the period since the last national congress as one in which "the Labour Government has continued to carry out policies which throw the burden of capitalism's crisis onto the shoulders of the working class".

Driver honoured: Mr David Scott (far left), driver of the Greater London Council chairman's car, after receiving the British Empire Medal, awarded in the Birthday and Jubilee Honours, at County Hall yesterday. With him are the 12 past

thousands of donors are urgently needed at the transfusion centres.

Patients' gratitude never reaches those who give blood

By Derek Barnett

"Dear blood donor—I wish I knew your name to thank you more. I wish I could see you, so now I say goodbye. Thank you ever so much."

That letter was written from a hospital bed by a young boy called David, who had been given six blood transfusions to help him to recover after burns. It is one of many such letters sent each year in gratitude to those who give blood to aid the sick and injured in hospitals throughout Britain.

But the names of donors are never known to the patient, so they never receive those expressions of appreciation which go instead to the blood transfusion centres, or the "blood banks" responsible for supplying the hospitals in their areas.

But that does not take away the sense of satisfaction in helping someone in need, and it is that satisfaction more than anything else that moves 1,500,000 people to become donors and to attend donor sessions about twice a year.

Unfortunately, that figure is not enough. Only one out of every 30 people medically able to give blood actually does so. Thousands of new donors are urgently needed.

Dr Tom Davies is deputy director of the North London Blood Transfusion Centre, at Edgware, which supplies more than 100 hospitals serving

3,500,000 people, mostly in the north of Greater London, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. "There are some 140,000 donors in our region but we need another 10,000", he says.

He makes it clear that "nobody is going to die for want of blood, but we are always short of donors". He explains that the difficulty is in making up the 2,000 donors lost each month because of people leaving the area, becoming ill or, perhaps, reaching the age of 65, after which they are not permitted to give blood.

Others may become medically ineligible to give because of contracting ailments, such as jaundice or undulant fever, and women expecting or nursing children normally cease giving blood for a while.

In addition, nearly 50 per cent of that region's donors give their blood at work, and if a man or woman moves to a job outside the area that means another loss. As Dr Davies puts it, "we have to work hard to make up these losses so as to meet the hospitals' blood requirements."

Sudden emergencies such as a train crash or other disaster present no difficulty. "You always get donors then", the doctor says. "The response is tremendous."

There is always a supply of blood at the centre and at local hospitals, tested and ready, too.

If necessary, other centres in Britain can be asked for assistance. If a patient needs a particular group of blood in large quantities, there are "emergency" donors in some companies.

I asked Mr Leslie Pigden, regional donor organizer, how the centre tackled the job of attracting new donors. Sometimes posters were used, but some shops or supermarkets would not allow them because they might "distract customers from the commodities on offer".

They also came up against the argument: "If I display your posters, how can I refuse everyone else's?"

The response from donors attending the regular sessions at any given time varies, too. Holidays and good weather, not unnaturally, keep some away. "We weekends are the days", Mr Pigden said, with an enthusiastic smile, and the stronger the community feeling in an area the more donors they get.

Most people tend to think of donations being used to restore sudden, severe blood loss in accident victims or patients undergoing major surgery or, perhaps, to give exchange transfusions to rhesus babies suffering from destruction of their red cells, which make up one of the various components of blood in the body.

Blood is used for many other purposes which have been facilitated in recent years by an improvement in the process of separating those components, thus greatly increasing the value of a donation.

For example, the red cells, which carry oxygen from the lungs all over the body, can be "concentrated" by removing some of the liquid plasma, a pale yellow fluid, and then used to treat various anaemic states which do not respond to drug therapy. Transfusion of unwanted plasma to sufferers of chronic anaemia may even be harmful if the patient has a weak heart.

The blood's platelets, tiny cells that play an important role in the clotting process, are sometimes given to patients after a heart operation to correct leakage at the site of the stitching in the outer walls of the heart. Platelet transfusion can also help in treating leukaemia (cancer of the blood) and some bleeding disorders.

Red cells can be preserved for long periods by freezing at -196°C, a technique that is useful when doctors want to store cells from rare blood groups.

Research is progressing on the transfusion of white blood cells, which help to fight infection. But that work is still in the investigatory stage. Successful transfusion of those cells could, for example, help patients to return home or go back to work after a short rest.

Donors are awarded a bronze badge for 10 donations, a silver one for 25 and a gold badge for 50.

cope with infection if they are unable to produce enough of their own white cells.

The red and white cells and the platelets are suspended in the plasma, but that also contains various chemical substances vital to health. Fibropin, yet another clotting element, can be prepared from plasma. Among its uses is as an adhesive to keep skin grafts in position until the tissues knit.

Three weeks after a donation "whole" blood, containing all its components, becomes unsuitable for transfusion. But the plasma is dried for storage and can quickly be reconstituted when it is needed.

It is also used to restore the volume of fluid in circulation to sustain life until a patient can be moved from a remote area to a hospital with full transfusion facilities or until blood of the right group is available.

A person can become a blood donor at the age of 18. Each donation is of about three quarters of a pint. The procedure takes about half an hour and is painless. The donor is able to return home or go back to work after a short rest.

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Booby-trap bomb injures two soldiers

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

Two British soldiers were injured yesterday when a booby-trap bomb exploded without warning in a small village two miles from Crossmaglen, in south Armagh.

The Provisional IRA claimed responsibility for the blast, which shattered windows over a wide area, and was believed to have been caused by a improvised land-mine. The condition of the two soldiers was later described as comfortable.

Bombers jailed: Four members of a gang who staged an attack on Ballymena with 17 bombs were jailed for life yesterday with a recommendation that they serve not less than 25 years (the Press Association reports). Two of them were women.

Altogether six men and women were convicted at Belfast City Commission of racketeering in the raids, in which four soldiers were killed. Seven of the eight were convicted of the murder of M Anne Dunlop, aged 27. Her charred body was found in the wreckage of the bus in which she worked after October's Provisional IRA bomb attack on the town.

Those who received life sentences were: Ann Batson, aged 22, of Moss Road, Belfast; Marian O'Neill, aged 22, of Beechfield Drive, Belfast; Thomas McIlveen, aged 18, of Tamplaghduff Road, Belfast; and Sean McPeak, aged 18, of Ballymena, Belfast.

Three who were given indefinite detention on the much-charged and sentenced to years in prison by police from the re-opening Andrew Ram's inquiry in London yesterday await sentence from the court.

He had tried to read a statement demanding the removal of Mr Ralph Robb from his position as inspector at the inquiry, maintaining that he was not impartial.

As the inquiry opened, a birthday cake with 12 candles was presented to Mr Robb by Mrs Sally Vernon of Harlequin Friends of the Earth, to celebrate the second anniversary of the inquiry. She said that the candles, which Robb blew out, coincided with the number of inquiries in which Mr Robb had found in favour of the Department of the Environment.

Mr Tyme immediately demanded the right to discuss procedure, but Mr Robb said that he had discussed it "ad nauseam" over the past 22 previous sessions and would not discuss it further.

Amid shouts of "Tyme out" and "Let him be heard", Mr Robb asked Mr Tyme to return to his seat and when he refused called the stewards and finally the police.

After he had been escorted from the hall, Mr Tyme said that he wanted to tell the inquiry that aspects of it at present convened denied justice "on two fundamental counts".

The first was that no man should be judge in his own case. "Mr Robb cannot deny the fact that he is cocooned within this particular technology and associated wholly with it."

"The other killer of justice is not to let the other side be heard. The objectors have inadequate information to present their case."

He wanted the inspector to stand down, and Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, to convene a transport and planning inquiry.

The inquiry was adjourned.



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Plane passengers recover after blaze

Women and children were recovering yesterday after escaping from a blazing airliner at Shannon Airport, in the Republic of Ireland, late on Sunday.

As the jet, carrying 245 passengers and 10 crew, sped down the runway and was about to take off, one of the starboard engines caught fire. The pilot managed to brake.

The passengers, most of them women, some elderly, and children, used emergency chutes to leave the aircraft. At least 35 passengers were taken to hospital with minor injuries.

The jet, an American-owned DC8 on a charter flight, had stopped at Shannon to refuel on the way to Baltimore. All the passengers were Americans returning from Rome. The airport's firemen fought the blaze, which threatened fuel tanks, while rescue services took the passengers to safety.

Northamptonshire Education Authority said last night: "The children will be turning up for school as usual although some of them will have to be moved to other classes."

The fire appeared to have started in the bed occupied by the women. Inquests on them will be held later this week.

One of the women was named last night as Mrs Victoria Turner, aged 24.

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HOME NEWS

Men alleged to have damaged John Peel's grave for 'revenge'

From Our Correspondent

A telephone call to a news agency said that the bones of John Peel, Cumbria's famous huntsman, had been dug up and thrown into a cesspit. It was stated an Wigton Magistrates' Court yesterday.

Three men were before the court on a charge of causing criminal damage to a headstone, the property of the rector and churchwardens of Caldbeck parish church.

They were David Hough, aged 48, company director, of Farmers Road, Middle Barton, Buxton, Oxfordshire; Michael Huskisson, aged 23, post-graduate student of Abingdon, Huntington, Cambridge; and Garry Treadwell, aged 21, formerly of Ridge Close, Nutley, Sussex, and now of no fixed address.

The men elected to go for trial at the Crown Court and asked for reporting restrictions to be lifted. Mr Hough asked that in the interests of a fair trial none of the magistrates should have any connexion with blood sports or with local councils or the Church of England.

Mr Ivan Stowe, the chairman, said that none of them had any connexion with blood sports or councils, but he told Mr Hough that his objections to their belonging to the church was frivolous.

Mr John Kay, the prosecutor, said that John Peel had been immortalized in a hunting song and his grave in Caldbeck was something of a landmark. The headstone was found to have been damaged on January 23. A corner had been knocked off and the grave had been dug into.

He alleged that the offence was committed to obtain cheap publicity for the cause of anti-hunting. The grave, which was

still tended by relatives of John Peel, was dug up to a depth of about three feet and a fox's head and a note in the form of a poem were placed in it.

The poem was as lacking in literary merit as it was in taste, he said.

It conveyed that it was an act

of revenge on behalf of all the foxes that had been killed in Peel's hunting career.

Mr Kay said that Mr Geoffrey Smith, senior assistant news editor of the Press Association, had received an anonymous telephone call from a man who said that John Peel's bones had been dug up and thrown into a cesspit. The man said that it was the work of the Animal Liberation Front.

The figures were compiled by Customs and Excise officers.

The trade in exotic animals, alive and dead, is disclosed in a report published yesterday by the Department of the Environment on the first year of operation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species now signed by 36 nations, which seeks to curtail the traffic in rare animals and plants by strict control and licensing.

Since the treaty was signed by Britain last year further controls have been applied to some species in particular danger: apes, otters, rhinoceroses, peregrine falcons and sea turtles. Almost all kinds of large cats, primates, elephants and crocodiles are protected by the treaty.

The Department of the Environment's wildlife conservation section is awaiting the 1977 figures with interest to see if there has been any significant drop in the trade of threatened species.

The trade in rare live animals is small, and the figures are largely made up of specimens moving between zoos, or the comings and goings of circuses.

The dead animal traffic is much greater.

Last year we imported 112 jaguar skins, 159 leopard skins, three leopard skins, two tiger skins, one stuffed tiger skin, nine Nile crocodile skins, 400,000 lizard skins of various kinds, one polar bear pelt, one rhinoceros head, one Seychelles turtle shell, 3,000 metres of boa constrictor skin mainly from Argentina.

The ivory trade, although illegal in many countries where the elephant is indigenous, continues to flourish. We import 150 African elephant tusks for our own use, along with 262 elephant hair bracelets and 100 elephant bone bracelets. Since the figures were drawn up elephant hair bracelets have been taken off the protected list, as environmentalists take the view that no one would shoot an elephant just for its hair.

Alcoholism was increasing considerably and convictions for drunkenness had risen every year since 1966. Last year there were 108,691 offences, 8,642 of them by women. The biggest percentage increase was in under-age drunkenness, from 1,880 in 1966 to 6,113 last year.

There were grounds for believing that many drinking drivers were either alcoholics or heavy drinkers and that the consequences of conviction were not sufficient to make them break the habit or seek treatment, he said.

Banning drivers had been recommended by the Blennerhasset committee, set up in 1974 to examine the law on drinking and driving. In America coercion used an induc-

Britain as a tiger exporting nation

By Alan Hamilton

Exports of British-bred rare animals are doing well. Last year 21 tigers, four leopards, one pygmy hippopotamus, two servals and 200 axolotls were sent abroad. The axolotl being a small, newt-like amphibia from Mexico, this is a rare tribute to British enterprise.

But imports of rare animals continue. During 1976 we brought in, among other things: six lemurs, one rhinoceros, six Mongolian antelopes, one Chilean puma, 10 chimpanzees, nine polar bears, 30 falcons, four giant tortoises, 90,000 common tortoises, 150 boa constrictors and three pythons.

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Stabbed PC: Police constable Dad Sammie, aged 20, in St Stephen's Hospital, Chelsea, yesterday after being stabbed four times in the back while on observation in plain clothes in the King's Road. Scotland Yard said four white youths and a black boy aged about 14 were being sought over the unprovoked attack.

Dentists reject Ennal move on expenses

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

A move by Mr Ennal, Secretary of State for Social Services, to get new discussions on dentists' expenses within the Dental Rate Study Group was dismissed by the British Dental Association last night.

In a statement, Mr Ennal said he was appealed by the association's decision to take action against National Health Service patients and appealed to them representatives to return to the rates study group, from which they withdrew last week.

Indicating that patients should not be asked a "begrudging sum" in industrial disputes, Mr Ennal said that at his request Mr H. S. Duncan, the chairman of the study group, was willing to reconvene the group for a meeting next Monday.

Mr Ennal emphasized that

the present disagreement concerned only expenses and not earnings. The method of adjustment was one the dentists themselves had requested three years ago.

Mr Ronald Allen, secretary of the BDA, said he was angry and astonished by Mr Ennal's action. Mr Duncan was a public-spirited man doing his job responsibly. He had reported the failure of the group to recommend a revised scale of fees for dentists and the matter had been passed back to Mr Ennal.

"Nothing has changed", Mr Allen said. "We think it is extremely unfair that the chairman has been brought into a conflict of which he is not part."

Mr Ennal seemed unable to comprehend that in the view of dentists the question of expenses could not be separated from fees.

Decisions on solicitors

The Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal in London yesterday ordered that Mr Cyril Marcus Harris, of Bridge Street, Manchester, be struck off the roll of solicitors for misappropriating clients' money, but suspended the order pending a possible appeal.

The tribunal restored Mr Stephen John Gravely Agate, of Bampton, Devon, to the roll. He had been struck off in 1972 after being convicted of obtaining money by deception.

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WEST EUROPE.

Storm over arrest in Paris of Baader-Meinhof lawyer

From Ian Murray
Paris, Oct 3

A storm of protest is growing in left-wing French legal circles over the arrest of Herr Klaus Croissant, the Baader-Meinhof defence lawyer, in Paris on Friday to answer an extradition warrant issued by the court of appeal in Stuttgart on July 15.

Since Herr Croissant slipped out of West Germany into France he had been keeping his whereabouts a secret, although he gave several interviews to journalists put in touch with him by contacts. It was after one of these interviews on Friday at a flat in the Avenue du Général Leclerc that he was arrested. The police had apparently followed him there and stopped him as he came out.

On Saturday two 40-year-old women, Mme Hélène Châtelain, an actress and film director, and Mme Marie-Joséphine Sinat, a pharmaceutical engineer, were arrested and charged with harboring Herr Croissant. Mme Châtelain is the tenant of the flat and Mme Sinat had arranged the interview.

The protests against his arrest have come from several bodies with a secretarial and left-wing legal background. In a statement they have drawn the French Government's attention to the political dimension of the affair.

A new West German law (hurriedly passed by Parliament last week) considers all lawyers who unreservedly defend terrorists as terrorists themselves. In the statement claims. It calls this an attack against the basic rights of defence which are an essential protection of the rights of the individual.

If the Paris court of appeal, which will hear defence applications for the release of Herr Croissant on October 10, should agree to his extradition, the statement continues, this would constitute a new offence under French law, the offence of political defence. It would thus create a worrying precedent.

Herr Croissant has applied for political asylum and this is being considered by the French authorities. He was released in custody after making a brief appearance before the appeal court on Saturday. Extradition proceedings against him are expected to take some time.

Patricia Clough writes from Bonn: About 90 convicted and suspected terrorists are being held in complete isolation from the outside world under the new anti-terrorist law, which came into force yesterday.

They may not see or write to

their lawyers, receive or send mail, have access to radio, television, newspapers or periodicals or meet each other inside their prisons for a maximum of 30 days.

The law, criticized by its few opponents as an infringement of civil rights, was designed to cut off jailed terrorists from contact outside during the course of terrorist kidnappings and similar crimes. The authorities strongly suspect that such crimes may be organized by or with the help of terrorist leaders in prison and that sympathetic lawyers act as go-betweens.

It permits any *Land* government or, if several *Landes* are involved, the federal Justice Minister, to order their isolation if there is reason to believe that danger to the "life, safety and freedom of a person" can thus be avoided.

Drawn up hastily on the wave of alarm generated by the kidnapping of Dr Hanns-Martin Schleyer a month ago, today, the law was passed by both Houses of Parliament and signed by President Scheel in less than three days, a speed rarely achieved in the history of the present Parliament.

Four members of the Social Democratic-Liberal coalition voted against and 17 abstained in the Bundestag, the lower house, and the Government appealed to its enforcement that the law had passed thanks to the support given it by the hard-line conservative Christian Democratic Opposition.

An amendment by the junior coalition party, the Free Democrats, to allow court-appointed lawyers to keep in touch with the prisoners and look after their interests during the lock-up period failed.

The Nobel Prize-winning writer Heinrich Böll said on the weekend that West Germans "will be totally isolated, culturally, politically and spiritually, unless public opinion here does not make an about turn".

He was commenting in a radio interview on a raid on the home of one of his sons last week by police looking for the kidnappers of Dr Schleyer. The raid, which followed an anonymous telephone call to police, was denounced by the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* today as part of a campaign to defame the Left.

An invitation to the writer Lutz Künkel, head from her works at Berlin, near Stuttgart, was cancelled at the last minute after an illustrated magazine alleged that she sympathized with terrorists. The incident has provoked strong protests by the president of the West German Pen Club and the West German authors' union.

Mounting toll of murder and violence in Italy's south

Mafia's harsh rule supplants the state in Reggio Calabria

From Peter Nichols
Reggio Calabria, Oct 3

With 51 recorded murders since the beginning of the year, nine kidnappings, 300 violent attacks and at least 200 wanted men known to be at large, violence in Reggio Calabria province is beginning to be seen as a national problem.

The Communists and Socialists are calling for a parliamentary debate on Calabrian affairs.

In the phrase of a high official, the state's authority in this unhappy region is "about zero". The regional administration got off to a disastrous start seven years ago when the city of Reggio Calabria rose in revolt against the central Government's choice of another Calabrian city, Catanzaro, as regional capital.

The region has not recovered from that beginning. A few weeks ago, disgruntled factory workers wrecked the office of the regional administration's chairman.

Above all, in terms of immediate and future danger, young people, including many with higher education, will have great difficulty in finding work unless they agree to join the one concern which is prospering in Calabria. They must become killers or informants for the new Mafia.

Calabria has never in its frequently violent history suffered anything comparable to its modern Mafia. The old organization, now defeated by

more modern groups, was essentially rustic and regarded as a rather backward, distant cousin of the Sicilian Mafia. Now, however, the Calabrian Mafia is a power in its own right.

Unlike the state, it has a taxation system which works without flaw: protection money is said to be paid at all levels of society. Earlier this year Signor Rocco Gatto, a mafioso in the town of Gioiosa Ionica, refused to pay protection money and said so in public. He was shot.

Shortly before, a Communist youth, aged 16, had been killed after speaking out against the Mafia during an election campaign.

In the Crotone area, the Mafia is said to have a highly prosperous arms traffic; elsewhere, apart from cigarettes and drugs, it is said to be deep in diamond smuggling. Industrial projects such as the ill-conceived steel mill at Gioia Tauro, on which the equivalent of £200m has already been spent, provide a constant supply of money.

Calabria is already one of Italy's poorest regions and one effect of Mafia rule is to hold back economic expansion. Cities are known of people with a few thousand pounds to invest which they are afraid to use because they do not know what share the Mafia will demand.

Murder charge laid in Orly hijacking case

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Oct 3

Jacques Robert, who was arrested by French police when they stormed a hijacked Caravelle belonging to Air Inter at Orly airport on Friday last, was today charged with a series of offences concerning the incident.

Brought handcuffed before the examining magistrate, he was charged with seizing the aircraft, murder, attempted murder, particularly of law officers, and of taking hostages. The murder charge in this case carries the death penalty.

During the half-hour hearing M. Robert said that he had tried to shoot a policeman with his pistol but that the gun had not gone off. He said he had accidentally released the grenade that killed one passenger.

Pre-election atmosphere as French parliamentary session starts

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Oct 3

The last session of the National Assembly before the March elections opened today with electioneering in the air. Yet great parliamentary battles, such as the one over capital gains tax last year and over direct elections to the European Parliament this year, are unlikely.

Elections, as several commentators note today, have a paralysing effect on the deputies: first, because 100 of the present 475-strong Assembly will not return after the elections through death or retirement and, second, because so many battles are fought in the streets and the air.

For these reasons political parties will continue to be fought mainly in the street and on the air.

The parties making up the Government majority have been extremely cautious in drawing conclusions from the breakdown of the common programme of the left-wing parties. They feel it is too soon yet to talk of the break-up of the Union of the Left or to claim that the wind is now blowing strongly in their favour.

Their main concern is that the Left will be the 1978 Budget.

Most of them regard this as a purely formal exercise. The Budget is bound to be completely revised after the elections, whether or not the Left wins.

Another reason is that their unity is still too fragile to enable them to indulge in speculation about a redistribution of the cards in the political game and the emergence, at some future date, of an alternative centre-left majority in the country.

The Gaullist party, which was based on the solidity of the criticism between Socialists and Communists, has been thrown bodily off balance by their emergence.

President Giscard d'Estaing, whose analysis of the political situation has been discredited by the rift in the Union of the Left, has come out in favour of the Left or to claim that the wind is now blowing strongly in their favour.

He has also been critical of the Left's handling of the budget.

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The parties making up the

Government majority have been extremely cautious in drawing conclusions from the breakdown of the common programme of the left-wing parties. They feel it is too soon yet to talk of the break-up of the Union of the Left or to claim that the wind is now blowing strongly in their favour.

For these reasons political parties will continue to be fought mainly in the street and

10/10/77

OVERSEAS

Belgrade defence by Russians will include armoury of charges against West on human rights

am Richard Davy and
sea Traviss
Tuesday, Oct 3

sweet but firm reasonable
is being promised by
negotiations streaming in here for
now's opening of the
conference to review the Helsinki
agreement, which was signed
1975 by 35 nations of East
and West. It was an attempt to
make a framework of principles
and aspirations to improve
conditions in Europe.

The Russians have been won
over to the West will use the
new conference to put them
on trial for violations of
human rights, respect for
which is essential to the agree-
ment to be essential to peace

The West says it wants to
rid us of pomposities but that
will insist on a full review of
aspects of the agreement
which covers a wide range of
subjects concerned with security
and cooperation, including
military manoeuvres, improved
conditions for business
and journalists and freedom
for people and in-
migration.

Since the review conference
expected to last at least
until December 22, and could
necessarily resume for a
month or more from mid-January,
there will be plenty of time
to see whether acrimony
is to take over as each
side starts listing the shortcomings
of the other.

Western governments have
made full of material pro-
vided by dissidents and human
rights groups, as well as by a
wide range of bodies con-
cerned with East-West con-
tacts.

The Russians and East Euro-
peans have assembled huge
assessments on questions such as
their policy in Northern Ire-
land, American treatment of

Indians and other minorities
and on the denial of economic
and social rights such as the
right to work to the
oppressed subjects of the
capitalist world.

The Russians say they will
not fire off most of this
ammunition unless provoked
by the West, but the West is
far more willing to discuss its
own shortcomings than the
Russians are to discuss theirs,
so a full and open debate on
human rights could only move in
the West's favour.

Nevertheless, Western policy
will now be more cautious than
seemed likely in the early
stages of the Carter Adminis-
tration. Mr Arthur Goldberg,
the former United States
representative to the United
Nations, is in the lead of the
American delegation.

He said on arriving here that
expectations about what the
Belgrade conference could
achieve had been high in the
United States and elsewhere,
but that the process of achieving
détente with a human face
was bound to be slow and
miracles could not be
expected.

"I came here not to have a
confrontation, nor to score
debating points or engage in
polemics, but to have a full
review by every signatory of
all points of the accord."

Mr David Owen, the Foreign
Secretary, set the tone of the
British approach to the con-
ference in his speech in
Chicago last week, when he
said it would require "firm
but sensitive handling".

Human rights, he said, were
a major element in foreign
policy but they provided one
of the sharpest manifestations
of the ideological struggle in
the détente process.

The golden rule must be that
neither side should pursue

politics which so raise the
level of conflict that the struc-
ture of détente is itself
threatened.

"This is the danger we face if
polemics between East and
West on human rights gets out
of hand", he said.

Most of the participating
states will have special points
they wish to press, many of
them not directly connected
with human rights.

As the Yugoslav press has
been pointing out, the virtue
of the Helsinki conference is
that it provides an opportunity
for smaller countries to in-
fluence East-West relations, for
it proceeds by common agree-
ment and therefore cannot be
controlled by the super powers.

The Yugoslavs are particularly
anxious that the conference
should have a more direct in-
fluence on arms control negoti-
ations.

The West will be putting
forward ideas for improving
the military confidence-build-
ing measures already included
in the agreement.

Poland is particularly in-
terested in improving conditions
for East-West trade. West
Germany shares this interest,
but will also press for easier
reunification of families
separated by the division of
Europe.

Moscow, Oct 3.—The Soviet
Union will give the Belgrade
conference a detailed account
of its experience in fulfilling
the 1975 Helsinki accords on
security and cooperation.
Pravda said today.

The Soviet Communist Party
newspaper said the account
would be provided in the hope
that this would help other
countries to put the accords
into practice more effectively.

However, *Pravda* did not explicitly
mention the controversial
issue of human rights in
today's commentary. Reuter.

Jews 'no better off since Helsinki'

By Our Diplomatic
Correspondent

The Soviet record in extending
the humanitarian provisions
of the Helsinki agreement to
the three million Jews in the
Soviet Union has been "sadly
disappointing", Lord Fisher of
Camden said yesterday.

A report prepared for the
World Conference on Soviet
Jewry, released in London and
New York yesterday, puts the
number of Soviet Jews seeking
to join relatives in Israel, but
not yet permitted to leave the
country, at 186,419 at the end
of last year.

Applicants have been
harassed through dismissal
from jobs and refusal of new
employment, coupled with the
threat of charges of parasitism,
arrest on trumped up charges,
expulsion from universities, or
military conscription, the report
claims.

Lord Fisher, president of the
Board of Deputies of British
Jews, said the British Government
had given a sympathetic response
to the report, which had been sent to friendly
governments for the opening
of the Belgrade follow-up
conference to the Helsinki
accord.

The report says the Jewish
religion has been subject to
"especial discrimination" in the
Soviet Union and that the position
has in no way improved since
the adoption of the Helsinki
final act.

On the contrary, it claims
that laws on religion have been
adopted "which affect the
Jewish religion in a particu-
larly adverse manner". The
worst feature was anti-Jewish
propaganda.

Lord Fisher said the report
was being submitted not for the
purpose of recrimination, but
in a constructive spirit, in the
hope that the position of Soviet
Jews would be improved by the
Soviet Government.

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OVERSEAS

Rhodesian guerrillas postpone talks on formation of political party to fight election

From Nicholas Ashford
Lusaka, Oct 3

The Patriotic Front, the Rhodesian African nationalists organization which is fighting the guerrilla war against Mr Ian Smith's Government, today postponed an important meeting which had been called to discuss the unification of the Front's two wings, the Zimbabwe African People's Union (Zapu) and the Zimbabwe African National Union (Zanu).

The meeting was to have been attended by the organization's two leaders, Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Robert Mugabe, as well as other members of the Front's 10-man coordinating committee.

The postponement followed the weekend announcement that talks had taken place in Lusaka the previous Sunday between President Kaunda of Zambia and Mr Smith. The postponed meeting is now due to take place on October 15.

The meeting was to have discussed the transformation of

the Patriotic Front from a confederal organization into a single political party which would contest elections held on the basis of the Anglo-American settlement proposals. This would mean the eventual disbandment of Zapu and Zanu as separate entities.

The meeting was postponed at the request of Zanu whose leader, Mr Mugabe, failed to arrive in Lusaka from Maputo last night. A Zanu spokesman, Mr Rugare Gumbo, said Mr Mugabe's absence was due to pressure of work. But he also said the Zanu leader was awaiting clarification of "recent events in southern Africa".

This was taken as a reference to the Smith-Kaunda meeting. The Zambian and Rhodesian leaders, normally the bitterest of enemies, held what were described as cordial talks lasting more than six hours in President Kaunda's official residence.

Mr Mugabe is understood to

be concerned about the secret meeting and the fact that he was not informed about it. Leaders of the "front line" African states were advised of the meeting after Mr Smith's departure as were the British and American Governments.

The secrecy surrounding the meeting has raised fears within Zanu that Mr Smith was trying to persuade President Kaunda to back a settlement plan that would include Mr Nkomo's Zapu but exclude the more militant Zanu. Mr Nkomo was in Lusaka at the time of the Smith-Kaunda talks but has denied that he attended them or was even informed about them.

Mr Mugabe, Oct 3.—Mr Mugabe will accept an ceasefire in Rhodesia until Mr Smith resigns, he told the *Rand Daily Mail* in an interview published today.

He said he opposed the Anglo-American proposals for a ceasefire and the "neutralization" of the guerrilla forces.

Long call-up seen as aid to S African economy

From Eric Marsden
Johannesburg, Oct 3

South Africa's doubling of national service to two years, as announced last April, is intended not only to counter terrorism, but also to reduce the economic disruption caused by the present one-year system, Lieutenant-General J. R. Dutton, Chief of Staff Operations in the defence forces, said today.

In an "insurgency environment" a man serving two years would give better service than two men serving one year, he said. And the extension made economic sense because there would be less disruption of business and families with reductions in the continuous call-up of the citizen force.

General Dutton said that South Africa was engaged in a war and the defence forces were its insurance policy. But the premiums to be paid were national service and the withholding of certain sensitive information from the press.

In a broadcast last night Mr Jannie Kruger, the Minister of Justice and Police, named the British Council of Churches as one of several religious organizations that had given donations to the Black Community Programme.

The minister alleged that in the past 10 years the Black Consciousness movement had developed into a black power movement and had been infiltrated by members of the banned African National Congress. Referring to the contributions from foreign churches and from the International University Exchange Fund, he said it was not illegal for the Black Community Programme or the Zimela Trust to receive money from overseas, but the way the money was used had changed Black Consciousness into black power.



Mrs Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India, takes leave of her friends as she is arrested to face charges of corruption by police in Delhi.

Smith-Kaunda talks 'at Zambian request'

From Frederick Cleary
Salisbury, Oct 3

The Rhodesian Government

had expressed surprise at the British Government's rejection of an invitation by Mr Ian Smith, the Prime Minister, to Field Marshal Lord Carver and the United Nations Rhodesia representative to visit this country.

A spokesman said it was

"quite untrue" that the discussions on September 25 had been held at Mr Smith's request. Mr Smith had been invited to Lusaka and had readily gone in his search for a settlement.

The spokesman said the

London report that the highly-

secret meeting had been

arranged in conjunction with the South African, British and United States Governments was equally inaccurate.

"These

governments were not aware of the meeting was taking place", he added.

A Rhodesian Government spokesman said today that Mr Smith made the invitation in terms of paragraph 11 (c) of the British White Paper in which it was stated specifically: "The Secretary-General of the United Nations will be invited to appoint a representative to enter into discussions before the transition period with the British Resident Commissioner designate and with all the parties with a view to establishing in detail the respective roles of all the forces in Rhodesia."

He said the discussions were

straightforward and constructive and had taken place in a friendly atmosphere, although inevitably there had been

differences of viewpoint and approach.

Confirming that the seven hours of talks between the two leaders in State House, Lusaka, had centred on the settlement proposals, he denied there had been any mention of a return to Rhodesia by the joint leader of the Patriotic Front, Mr Joshua Nkomo. The Front is waging the guerrilla struggle.

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Confirming that the seven hours of talks between the two leaders in State House

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Appointments Vacant also on page 13



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Is the EEC's economic strategy working at long last?

As the Eurocrats drift back to their desks after the long summer vacation, and the 13 Commissioners return from their brainwashing session in the Ardennes, the economic prospects for the European Community suddenly begin to look good. For the first time in many months, one can sense a cautious optimism in the air.

Two things above all underline this change of mood. The two sick economies, Italy and the United Kingdom, seem to be on the mend; and, in different ways, the communist parties of Italy and France are being boxed in by events. How real are these apparent changes, and what are the implications for the future of Europe?

The most remarkable change has been in the performance of the Italian economy. A year ago Italy had been all but written off by her partners as an incurable case. Economic stagnation, rampant inflation, political instability and social disintegration seemed to be compounded in that lovely but ungovernable land.

Today Italy's inflation rate is still too high, and the symptoms of social tension are still evident. But the flight of capital has stopped, unemployment is no longer rising, industrial production is moving up, and the balance of payments has swung round into surplus.

This recovery has not been achieved, as in the United Kingdom, by external factors such as North Sea oil. What has happened is that an unexpectedly strong and stable Christian Democrat government, stimulated by the IMF, has succeeded in carrying through a programme of internal deflation which has damped down imports and encouraged exports, and thereby restored a measure of confidence to the demoralized business sector.

This programme of recovery has been carried through with the active support of the communists, whose assistance has enabled Italy to operate its own version of the "social contract". A year ago it looked as if the rise to power of the Italian Communist Party was unstoppable. Today the communists give an appearance of a party blocked on the threshold of power, and uncertain how to prevent their support from ebbing; unable to face the consequences of denying their support to the government, yet conscious of the fact that if the policy succeeds it is the Christian Democrats who will benefit, while the communists share theodium for the unpopular measures still needed.

The internal contradictions of Eurocommunism are beginning to show up, not only in Italy, but also in the last few weeks in France. It has been evident for some time that the greater threat to France's economic recovery is the lack of business confidence engendered by the belief that the general election next spring will be won by the socialists-communist alliance led by M. Mitterrand.

The much publicized conflict between the two partners in this alliance, which has been enlivening the French scene in recent years, must have one of two outcomes. The longer the argument goes on in public, the less credible will the left's programme be, and the greater the likelihood that the present government coalition will be returned at the election after all.

Alas, if an agreement is patched up, it is likely to be on M. Mitterrand's terms rather than those of the communist M. Marchais—for the communist party's only hope of access to power is as the junior partner of the socialists.

So either way it seems that the French communists are on a loser in their current bid



Mr Roy Jenkins: safeguarding democracy

publicly to force their socialist partners to swing further left; and their stance is only explicable as a desperate move to stop or slow down what they see as a rightward trend towards the centre on the part of M. Mitterrand. In the event their confrontation tactics could be counter-productive.

Compared with France, or Italy, events in the United Kingdom have been less surprising—but none the less significant. Commentators have been predicting for some time that the rate of inflation would start to decline this autumn, and that from henceforth the build-up of North Sea oil would swing the balance of payments into surplus. These two things have duly happened, but they have been accompanied by a third which was less predictable—a massive inflow of capital, deriving largely from fears about the dollar.

The net result has been to turn sterling quite rapidly from a weak to a strong currency. Over the next year or so the policy debates surrounding sterling will be whether to allow it to float up to its "natural" level, which would reduce import costs and so help to combat inflation—or whether to hold it down, thus keeping British manufacturing exports competitive in world markets. It is a novel choice for Britain's policy-makers, and at present there are signs of hesitation between the two courses.

Removing the apparatus of exchange controls

What is remarkable about the debate so far is that the European dimension has hardly been mentioned. Yet from her new-found position of strength the United Kingdom could embrace her European credentials in at least two ways.

The first way would be to remove the apparatus of exchange controls which are still being maintained in defiance of the Rome Treaty. The second would be to offer to put sterling back into the EEC currency "snake", at the current exchange rate—a rate which in fact undervalues the pound, thus giving us a competitive trade advantage via our EEC partners.

Both of these moves would be seen as positive contributions to European integration, and thus as potential bargaining points.

Michael Shanks

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William Rees-Mogg tomorrow concludes his analysis of the equation of British poverty

A show of hands that will change the power structure of Russia

ing counters to be cashed, perhaps, in changes to the common agricultural policy. Yet they are contributions which would cost Britain little or nothing so long as North Sea oil continues to underpin our currency.

And by averting the pressure which will otherwise develop to force up the sterling exchange rate, they would help the manufacturing sector, which otherwise could find its competitive edge blunted.

In the last quarter-century the United Kingdom's production costs have risen on average 2 per cent per annum faster than our main overseas competitors. This faster rate of inflation has been almost exactly matched by the decline in the sterling exchange rate over the same period. One would expect from these figures that our competitive edge in world markets would have been roughly preserved.

In fact, over this period there has been a sharp decline in our net trade balance, which cannot be fully explained by cost and price movements. Between 1963 and 1976 the share of imports in our total domestic consumption of manufactured goods rose from 25 per cent to 59 per cent, while the share of exports in our total production of manufactured goods over the same period fell from 41 per cent to 62 per cent.

The United Kingdom is still a net exporter of manufactures, but only just. Since it is this sector which provides a large proportion of the nation's jobs, it is important that its interests should be protected as we build up our primary and service sectors.

These are presumably the kind of policy options which the Government is canvassing in its forthcoming Green Paper on the implications of North Sea oil. It is to be hoped that in this analysis the Government does not lose sight of the fact that our economy, for good or ill, is a part of the European Community, and our strategy should be linked to the overall strategy of Europe's economic recovery.

For that strategy now begins to look, for the first time in a long while, reasonably credible. The inflation measures announced by the West German government, as a response to mounting pressures from the other EEC countries and elsewhere, may or may not prove adequate. But they are at least a positive step; and they could provide the "advice" for a renewed attempt by the European Council to concert moves towards economic stability and recovery, building on the remarkable changes outlined above in the major EEC countries.

No doubt Mr Jenkins and his fellow-Commissioners, during their Ardennes weekend, milled over the desirability of a Commission initiative in this field. Certainly they showed awareness of the link between economic and political stability. One of their main decisions was to adopt the proposal, first mooted in this column, that EEC members, present and prospective, be required to pledge themselves to maintain democratic regimes.

It is no accident that the apparent stagnation of Eurocommunism coincides with economic recovery in western Europe. Confidence is reviving, and the Community's armament men need to catch the rising tide.

Michael Shanks

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The Supreme Soviet is about to commit suicide, or at least self-mutilation. Today in Moscow its members begin discussing the new Soviet constitution that appeared in draft form on June 4. They will spend the next day or two making a few cosmetic adjustments, then they will raise their hands to approve it. The voting will be unanimous. It always is.

The members will then be in a strange position. They will still belong to a legislature, recognized internationally by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and confirmed in the new constitution as "the highest organ of state power in the USSR". They have, after all, gone through the formality of being elected by the Soviet people. But by approving Article 6 of the new constitution they will for the first time recognize that they are under the legal control of a totally separate body—the Communist Party—whose members and leaders, a small percentage of the population, are elected by each other, not by the people as a whole, not even in theory.

For instance, a new chapter on foreign policy pledges the Soviet Union to peaceful coexistence and non-interference in other countries' internal affairs. It repeats word for word many of the nobler phrases of the Helsinki Final Act. But it also binds the nation to "strengthening the socialist system". The system of school fog "shall serve communist education". Scientific facilities are made available "for communist construction". In other words, anyone who says or writes something for some other purpose is in clear violation, even foreigners, who are now obliged to observe the constitution as well as Soviet laws. It remains to be seen whether it will be invoked against foreign correspondents in Moscow.

In case any doubts remain, as they were in the 1936 constitution, "the highest organ of state power" they will no longer be "the controlling force in Soviet society"—a role now assigned to the Party. Nor will they decide the general line of society's development or the internal and external policy of the Soviet Union. The new constitution, in effect, reduces the Supreme Soviet to the level of an executive council. It will receive edicts from on high, discuss them in com-

mittee and put them into legal form. But in spite of its grand title, it will from now on have no more power to decide policy than does the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

True, on one level this is no more than a dot-on-an-i, a formal acceptance of a situation which has always existed. But constitutionally it is a coup d'état, a forced handing over of power by the people's representatives to a self-selecting oligarchy. And this confusion over the role of the Supreme Soviet is only one of a range of self-contradictions in the new document, which leads one to wonder why it was composed.

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Active dissidents are, under even greater attack. Stalin's 1936 constitution gave all the normal citizens' rights without qualification. Of course it was not observed, but after Stalin died it was useful to those who tried to bring legality and civilization into Soviet life.

Respect your own constitution" was the slogan of those days. Reformers as well as active opponents were able to use the constitution to bring about change. Now they will not be able to...

Vladimir Balashov says:

"The 1936 constitution gave

citizens a clear-cut

on human rights. They could

remain citizens of the Soviet

Union and it was the repressive

measures that began today.

ALL this the document has

accomplished, even preserving

a certain democratic gloss that

will deceive many casual

readers. It will relieve Mr

Brezhnev and his colleagues in

the Kremlin of the burden

of making headway. The consti-

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ON'T THROW AWAY THE GAINS

Healey deserves admiration for his stamina and his age. For the last years at least he has a basically hostile Labour conference and won respect for the way in which he has stood and stuck to his policy. He has played a major role in establishing a stable monetary policy at all. He has had the satisfaction of presiding over a most dramatic improvement in the national and external financial position of the country.

Now his own reputation, with the future course of the economy and the immediate electoral fortunes of the government are at another point. He indicated in Brighton at the International Monetary Fund last week, on vision over the weekend and at Brighton that his inclinations in favour of some stimulus for the economy this year next, but that the revival of "action" should be slow and steady, not rushed and dramatic, so far as this form of words presents his policy and that of the Government, it is

objectionable. Although the main political issue for some further measure of fiscal stimulation comes in the trades unions, from the left of the Labour Party from economists of a neo-nesian cast of mind, anything Mr Healey feels able to do autumn or next spring in

the way of direct fiscal stimulation will only be a sop in their direction. If the Chancellor is thinking in terms of measures which would have the effect of cutting taxes by, say, £1,000m, in terms of the traditional Treasury view of the economy it would require cuts of ten, or twenty times this size, to hold out the prospect of reducing unemployment to levels acceptable to the trades union movement. Since any such package would destroy at a stroke the confidence being gradually restored in the British economy and the pound, it is clear that the traditional way of inflating out of a recession would represent nothing except a quick way to disaster.

This is quite apart from the consequences that such a policy would surely have for the rate of price inflation. The substantial reduction in the rate of price inflation and the prospect that it will fall further in the coming months has, however, tended to obscure the fact that price rises are still at an unacceptable level. Neither in absolute terms, nor in terms of our performance relative to the other main industrial countries is a rate of price inflation at a level of 10 per cent acceptable. Even for the Labour Party, in considering its short-term election strategy, it will still be the case next year that rising prices will be a greater electoral liability than rising unemployment.

The ultimate test of Mr

Healey's policy will, therefore, be whether it produces a continuation of the downward trend of prices. So far this year the Government can point with a sense of achievement to the fact that the targets for monetary aggregates have been observed. They can also claim that the level, or at least the timing, of wage demands has been influenced by the steps they have taken to encourage an orderly return to collective bargaining. All of this, however, will be put at risk if monetary policy is suddenly relaxed next year.

In the present early stage of experience with monetary targets it is important that too rigid attitudes and frameworks should not be adopted for their own sake. It is, however, doubtful whether a greatly relaxed fiscal policy can be contained within monetary guidelines that offer the hope of a continued fall in the rate of price increases, if at the same time over the next eighteen months there is any substantial recovery in the real economy. We are still not far enough through this financial year to say with any certainty where in the critical range of 9 to 13 per cent this year's money supply expansion will come. The targets when they are set for next year should be lower; having travelled some way along the road of stabilizing the money supply, it would be tragic if Mr Healey were to retrace his steps now.

UNITED STATES POLICY AND ISRAEL

Joint statement from the American and Soviet governments on the Middle East is nothing to be welcomed. The two are co-chairmen of the Geneva Peace Conference; though a degree of understanding between them it is difficult to see how a Conference can be reconvened, and virtually impossible to see how it could make any progress. Dr Kissinger's policy of King the United States as mediator between Arabs and Israelis was surprisingly successful in extending American influence in the Middle East, and crucial also in defusing the immediate crisis after the war of October 1973.

With the Sinai Agreement of November 1975 that policy extended its capacity for advancing the cause of peace—if indeed many would argue that, although that agreement did a new war less likely in near future it also, by the thrust it sowed between the Arab states, made an overall peace settlement more difficult to achieve. In any case, there is little doubt that the final exclusion of the Soviet Union from the process has been one of the factors preventing further progress since then. Soviet influence in the Arab world may have declined, but it remains almost certainly strong enough to block any settlement which the Kremlin strongly approves.

Israel and their friends in the West have often been tempted to portray the Soviet Union as fundamentally hostile to any peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict, constantly and irresponsibly urging the US to adopt more extreme and belligerent policies. But both the public record and what has been revealed of private Arab-Israel contacts (for instance by Muhammad Haykal in *The Road to Ramadan*) suggest that this is far too simplistic view. Indeed Israel's own most distinguished historian, Mrs Galia Golani, is Director of the Soviet and European Research Centre at the Hebrew University, founded in a book published earlier this year that "the Soviet action in the absence of significant success in its Middle East policy was an increasingly anti-American, pro-radical line in the region, which threatened but did

not actually replace the basic Soviet interest in and even pursuit of a political settlement of the Arab-Israeli crisis". In other words, American success in reducing Soviet influence in the Middle East was purchased at the expense of Soviet cooperation in the achievement of peace.

This point has evidently been understood by the Carter Administration, which seems to have come to the conclusion that, on the one hand it can now deal with the Soviet Union in the Middle East from a position of strength, while on the other continued failure to make progress towards peace may soon jeopardise the American gains made so far.

The consequent rapprochement has been greeted with dismay in Israel, where America (in spite of its massive economic and military aid to Israel) is perceived as at best neutral, and the Soviet Union as an implacable enemy. The Israelis fear that the superpowers are ganging up to impose on them a settlement which they believe would be suicidal, since it would involve withdrawal from what they have convinced themselves are the only defensible borders for their state (the Golan Heights, the Jordan Valley and the Straits of Tiran), and recognition of a Palestinian state run by a group of terrorists sworn to their destruction.

They base their fears partly on the fact that a joint statement has been issued at all, and partly on its reference to the "Palestinian" "legitimate" rights (where previously the United States recognized only "legitimate interests"), its insistence on the need for the participation of Palestinian representatives in the Geneva Conference, and its omission of any reference to the Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, on the basis of which the Geneva Conference was originally convened.

In reply, the Americans can point out that they have obtained from the Russians a statement which does not refer by name to the Palestine Liberation Organization and which calls only for "withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the 1967 conflict", without the crucial definite article. They can add that the "legitimate rights of the Palestinian people" are not defined, so that the United

States is still not committed to insisting on an independent Palestinian state but only on a "homeland", and that their commitment not to establish direct relations with the PLO until it recognizes Israel's right to exist, and not to invite the PLO to Geneva without Israel's consent, remains intact.

Behind these points of detail, however, the Israelis are right to detect a growing unanimity of world opinion which insists that they should be willing to accept now an offer they would certainly have jumped at had it been made to them any time before June 1967: peace with their neighbours. Recognition of their existence within the frontiers they had then, with some minor rectifications whose net effect would definitely be in their favour, plus no doubt demilitarization of substantial frontier zones with United Nations supervision; early warning systems and whatever international guarantees they think worth having. The one issue which the consensus does not include is the future of Jerusalem, on which there is certainly no uniformity of world view.

Unfortunately it is increasingly clear that such an offer is not now acceptable either to the present Israeli government, or to the opposition or to the majority of the Israeli electorate. President Carter's Middle East policy appears to be running full steam towards a brick wall. He will soon be faced with the choice of either stopping dead or attempting to remove the brick wall by leverage, using Israel's acute dependence on the Provisional IRA in all its activities including murder, maiming and armed robbery. I am not suggesting that Mr Arden and people like him have any sympathy with these activities. But neither am I going to refrain from alluding to these activities because libertarians of Mr Arden's stamp find them irrelevant to the one grand equation of "repression is repression is repression".

Finally, while I am grateful to Mr Bernard Levin for the warmth of his approbation, I could wish that he had expressed it in another way. It is embarrassing for any man to *raise pride in himself* combined with what appears to be racial insults directed at people to which he belongs. I don't believe that Mr Levin seriously intended such racial insults. He was writing in a vein of humourous, truculent hyperbole, which is in itself rather Irish, but unfortunately the history of relations between our two countries is such that such language crosses the channel, the humorous overtones it fade out.

To both Mr Levin and Mr Arden I would protest, in the words of the French classic, that I deserve: *Nice excuse d'honneur ni cette indigence.*

Yours sincerely,
CONOR CRUISE O'BRIEN,
Seánad Éireann,
Ballsbridge, Dublin,
September 23.

Direct grant schools

From Mr James Cobain

Sir, As Chairman of the Direct

Grant Joint Committee I warmly

welcome the statement of Mr St

John Stevens on the "restoration"

of the direct grant schools. It is the

kind of positive thinking for which

these schools have worked in

recent years.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES COBAIN,
The Old Vicarage,

100 Long Road,

Abingdon,

Oxfordshire.

September 23.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN CORBAN,

100 Long Road,

Cambridge.

September 23.

Claim to a united Ireland

From Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien

Sir, Both Mr Rees-Mogg (September 28) and Mr Scrivenbury (September 30) overlook the point that not all the population is employed in industry, and this is important for two reasons.

Firstly, if we take the overall

figure of gross domestic product per

capital the difference between Bri-

tain and other countries such as

Holland, France, Germany, etc be-

comes less than two to one (though

still two to great). To increase our

overall production to the level

achieved by advanced countries

would both require an increase in

productivity in industry and increase

total employment.

Secondly, since progress is so

uneven as between different sectors

of industry, most of the benefit of

increased productivity should be

passed on to the community at large

in the form of reduced prices.

Instead of being given as an increase

in wages to the localised group of

workers involved. Only in this way

will it be possible for labour no

longer required in productive indus-

try to be absorbed in service indus-

try.

Finally, we cannot in the long

run expect to export our unemploy-

ment in the form of favourable

balance of trade. The historical

record to a gradual shortening of

the working week must continue.

There will then be the problems

associated with unaccustomed leisure.

Yours faithfully,

C. J. FELL,

Crown House,

Newport,

Essex.

September 23.

Productivity of British industry

From Professor D. A. Bell

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Yours faithfully,

D. E. JORDAN

Foel Farm,

Newcastle Emlyn,

Mid Wales.

September 23.

Developing the neutron bomb

From Mrs Robin Barling

Sir, I feel very strongly that the time has come to challenge the values upon which our civilization rests and upon which it bases its political life and the decisions it takes for its preservation.

We consider ourselves in the West to be a Christian civilization, yet Christianity has been unable to help us to see our own dark shadow. To call ourselves Christian is the grossest hypocrisy.

We are prepared to encourage the invention and development of weapons like the neutron bomb which can only be described as demonic. We see nothing wrong in using the creative genius of man for such destructive purposes as the annihilation of his own kind. We justify this unimaginable suffering caused by these weapons.

But we have always, in the past, taken to defend ourselves can be vindicated by the necessity to destroy the enemy before he destroys us.

How has it come about that such an abyss divides thinking and feeling? How can scientists invent and people envisage using such weapons without experiencing any feelings of guilt and horror?

Why integration in Ulster's schools is not as simple as it seems

"We, the Government, are in favour of integrated education, where there is a demand for it. But it is unrealistic to see integrated schooling as a way of solving the killing yesterday of a British soldier in the streets of Belfast." That is what Lord Melchett, the Minister of State for Northern Ireland with responsibility for education, told a group of visiting English educational journalists last week.

There is an irritating tendency for the English on whirlwind tours of the province to look on integration of schools as a panacea for Ulster's troubles. They tend to overlook the immense practical problems of joining together two completely separate education systems, one for the Catholics and the other for the Protestants, run by separate, church-dominated school boards, and staffed by teachers trained in separate Protestant or Catholic colleges. Segregation exists for historical reasons and has merely been accentuated by the recent sectarian troubles.

At primary level and at the non-grammar school secondary level, Protestant children tend to go to the state "controlled" schools run by the five regional education and library boards, while Catholic children go to the "voluntary maintained" schools which are largely run by independent

Catholic school boards, though financed almost entirely by the state. Most of the grammar schools, which cater for one third of the secondary school population, are also run by independent church-dominated boards, which may be either Protestant or Catholic. Private independent schools are virtually unknown in Northern Ireland.

A few Catholics may be found in protestant schools and vice versa, but this is discouraged by the Roman Catholic Church which has always insisted on providing separate schooling for its children. It is not just a question of different religious education, but of provision for the whole moral formation of the child through both what is taught and how it is taught.

The Roman Catholic hierarchy in Northern Ireland is looking with particular concern at the current wave of permissiveness, progressive teaching methods and disciplinary problems in comprehensive schools "across the water". The Government's

announcement in June that it is planning to end selection and introduce comprehensive schooling throughout the province has aroused fears that this will somehow entail the abolition of the Catholic voluntary schools. State control for some Catholics means preaching contraception, abortion

on demand, mixed marriages and divorce to children.

These are real fears and not to be dismissed lightly. But the inflexibility of the Catholic Church's attitude in Northern Ireland is sometimes difficult for the English to understand. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor, Dr Philbin, for example, recently refused to confirm Catholic children who were attending a Protestant primary school.

A controlled (Protestant) comprehensive school in Ballycastle, on the North Antrim coast, was achieving a real measure of integration—more than one fifth of its pupils were Catholics two years ago—until the Catholic grammar school across the road decided also to go comprehensive. Only one of the Protestant school's intake of 80 pupils this year is Catholic.

But the sectarian troubles and the attitudes of the paramilitary groups and of some parents on both sides are also clearly to blame. Several Protestant schools we visited in the Belfast area claimed that they had some Catholic children but asked us not to publish the fact, as it could lead to a vicious hunt by extremist elements in the school, or to a bomb.

One of the many oddities about Northern Ireland is that there is

complete integration in the special

schools for the handicapped and also throughout further and higher education, with the exception of the teacher training colleges, and no one seems to notice.

Lord Melchett said last week that there was no question of forcing integration of Protestant and Catholic schools, although the Government felt that nothing but good could come out of voluntary integration. He hopes that comprehensive reorganization is taking place in England and Wales without the abolition of the denominational schools there.

There were other ways in which integration between the two communities could and should be fostered, he said: by changing the law to reduce the church domination of school management boards; by increasing the contacts between Protestants and Catholics that already existed but were rarely heard of, such as in football leagues, adult education classes and youth clubs; by integrating teacher training in higher education and promoting the exchange of teachers between schools of different fields; by carrying out research into curriculum development and by examining closely the possibility of integrated post-16 schooling in stadium centres or tertiary colleges, which could be a logical development of comprehensive reorganization.

Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Why Oxbridge must look to its students

"The enemy", said John Rae, headmaster of Westminster School at the recent Head Masters Conference, "is classical humanism... pure rather than applied, learning for its own sake, rather than for a purpose, remote academic, where government did not dictate or economic necessities intrude, above all where education is not seen as some national purpose but had aristocratic self-issuing merits... when the world power (British) reverted to its former status of trading state, these attitudes became obsolete."

Dear! We can most of us think of many worse enemies. There will always be a place for a small group of first class minds, independent of national or political pressures, striving to free themselves from prejudice and connected with truth rather than Expediency. Nevertheless, I agree with John Rae that there must be few in number; the trading state required wealth producers, businessmen, technologists, doers, not abstract thinkers; ivory towers, etc.

On the other hand, we know that business and could certainly help by moving a little more swiftly, are not the people who can do anything to alter things.

For years the politicians have avoided facing the need for real educational revolution by concentrating on social and political tinkering with institutions, which has done nothing for anybody except create unhappiness in the teaching world, please a few political theorists, lead to a useless overproduction of sociologists, crowding like maggots over the decaying corpse of our national institutions, and examination boards, which contribute to the increase by

20 times in violence among minors. If our schools and especially their sixth forms, are to serve the modern trading state more effectively, two things are necessary.

First, the universities must lead the change; second, the rewards offered by engineering and industrial management must be seen to equal those, for instance, offered to the top government bureaucrats.

It is the universities which govern the school curriculum. If the parents of intelligent students want them to go to university, and the students view this as the logical end of their studies, then the schools have to accept the conditions which the universities lay down for entry: Theoretically two, and, in practice, normally three highly specialised "A" level. In the case of medicine and many scientific and engineering courses, these are laid down in such a way as to virtually prevent any other post "O" level studies, except for the outstandingly brilliant. Dr Richard Hoggar, the former assistant director general of UNESCO said on Friday that the universities should provide more courses in the plastic and performing arts. The universities do not consider them academically respectable because they do not involve the exclusive use of books. How right he is! When at last year's Headmasters' Conference I asked the vice-Chancellor of Cambridge whether the English and modern language courses at that great university could not consider offering such opportunities to relieve the tedium of overtaught and constant critical analysis (to offer, for example, opera, acting, film studies, sculpture or creative writing in conjunction with drama), her long reply was: "If you want that sort of thing, there are other places to which you should send your students". Quite so, Madam; we are beginning to realise it. The inevitable reduction of most university courses to suggestions of change to enable boys and girls to study more broadly in the sixth forms or at university, is one of fear: fear of dropping standards, fear of becoming indistinguishable from polytechnics, fear of needing an extra year in the courses they offer at a time of financial cuts. Above all, they are so hamstrung by their own over democratic-bureaucratic constitutions that change is only possible if it pleases everybody, which means that it is impossible.

If the universities do not change by offering some outlet to the doers as well as to the abstract thinkers, if they do not encourage applications from students with a broader basis of post "O" level studies, if they do not change their entry requirements, and develop more inter-disciplinary courses, then they will be overtaken by the polytechnics and will strangle all significant school reform. As lifelong supporters of Oxbridge, many of my colleagues are numb to the fact that many of the newer universities and the polytechnics are overcoming the no longer logical prejudice of parents and are attracting the more able and active minded students they deserve. For they are rediscovering the truth known by the Renaissance: that the highest function of intelligent man lies in creation and activity not criticism.

As for the rewards offered by engineering and industrial management, you cannot blame youngsters for noticing that they are far smaller than those offered by other countries. Able engineers often return to school telling stories of disillusionment—no promotion on ability, penal taxation for management, and constant criticism blaming all the difficulties of industry on those who carry disproportionate responsibility for negligible reward.

If pressure groups are to be formed for the reformation of our education, it is quite clear at where they should be directed. Universities must not remain so exclusively institutions for the promotion of narrow academics, but places where men and women can indeed seek for truth, but can at the same time develop creative intelligence in a way which is balanced and practical.

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How many medical graduates is enough?

Average number of appointments each year 1972-1976

	Replaced posts (due to deaths and resignations)	Newly created posts	Total	Posts filled by international recruitment
General practitioner posts	1,150	220	1,370	280-290
Hospital consultant posts	340	360	700	180-200
Total	1,490	580	2,070	570-580

* Figures available for 1974 only

The following table repeats the recent career prospects of the NHS in the United Kingdom, and is derived from data issued by the Department of Health and Social Security.

In each of these years it can be seen that about 1,000 United Kingdom medical graduates obtained a post in general practice; that cost the nation over £20,000 each to produce; they fear unemployment of well-qualified doctors because of the shortage of permanent career posts.

There are many arguments either for an increase in the number of United Kingdom-trained doctors or for a decrease, but they all depend on an assessment of the number of doctors needed by a community. In this country we have had three major reports on this problem; in 1944 the Goodenough Committee recommended that more doctors were needed and there followed such a surfeit of highly qualified United Kingdom graduates in the 1950s that very large numbers were obliged to emigrate to find responsible work.

In 1957 the Will Committee, in the opposite conclusion, advised which may have led to the current shortfall in hospital staffing. The Todd Commission in 1968 repeated the Goodenough Committee's advice, but since it takes 10 to 15 years for changes in medical school intake to affect NHS medical staffing, the problem is only now starting to appear.

Is there any formula that gives the number of doctors that a country requires to provide proper medical care for all its citizens? Each term in this question affects the answer. What sort of doctors are meant? Is the country rich or poor? Is it its health service state-run, in private hands financed by insurance companies or is it a mixed system?

What is the proper medical care appropriate to the country? How many citizens does the country have and what is the expected number in the future?

It is precisely because there are so many variables that there can be no definite answer to these questions; this is why three learned committees on separate occasions have produced different answers, which in the event proved to be wrong.

The statistic giving the most trouble has been the predicted population of the country, which has defied accurate forecasting each time. What other way is there of assessing the need?

Is supply and demand the only satisfactory way? Unfortunately in the United Kingdom both the number of medical graduates and the number of posts in the NHS can be controlled directly or indirectly by government, so that simple market forces no longer operate. Furthermore because of the long delay between a medical student entering medical school and seeking his or her final post, as much as 15 or 20 years for some consultants specialists, it is highly important that a proper career structure must be available and adaptable.

In 1975 in Britain we had 91,600 qualified doctors. Sixteen per cent were retired, so there was one working doctor for every 715 people. Half these doctors work in the hospital service and a third in general practice, a ratio that reflects the style of medicine practised in this country; the rest are employed in the army, industry and the universities.

One might think that proper medical care appropriate to a country should be related to medical need, but this concept is really an abstract one, very difficult to quantify let alone define. The usual factor that determines the quantity and quality of care is demand, itself determined by the cost of medical care. There is almost no limit to the possibilities with private medical care, but state-controlled health services are financed by general taxation which usually means that the amount of money spent on health is the smallest amount of the gross national product that the electorate will tolerate.

Entry to the medical profession depends on medical school places and the attractiveness of a medical career to sixth form students. University councils, prompted by government guidance, decide the number of medical school places. There has never been a shortage of suitable entrants, because medicine has always been an attractive career with its intense human interest, the drama of acute illness, the regular satisfaction of helping others and its universality with the expectation that a job could be found anywhere in the world. Although there are restrictions of entry to certain countries, the recent EEC directive on the free movement of doctors in Europe underlines this freedom. If the career prospects both in number and quality were limited and this were known, would this deter entrants? If it did not, then there would be 10 to 15 years in which to expand and alter the staffing structure of the health service in order to cope with a surplus of doctors. If it did act as a deterrent, there would be the same time interval in which to organize a similar contraction of the service.

This will deserve the main post and so aggravate the employment problem for men.

There are three solutions to the problem: Should an economy boom or more funds be found for the NHS and private medicine then more doctors could be employed, but it must not be forgotten that the cost of an extra doctor, not just his or her salary but there is a far greater cost for the supporting services and personnel that are needed to allow the medical work to be done. If the population rises more doctors will be needed, but this is contrary to current forecasts.

A second solution is to redesign the staffing structure of the health service so that there are more permanent posts, particularly a third of all doctors' posts, this ratio needs to be altered so that there is only a sixth of all doctors' temporary training posts. This change means that there will be a dramatic alteration in the style of work of most doctors and this change may be difficult for the profession to accept.

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W many
al gradua
enough?

John Foord
CHARTERED
SURVEYORS

Whitehall expects new investment of over £6,250m for next year

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent
Manufacturing companies planning to spend between £50m and £6,500m on new investment next year. This

represents a rise of between 12 and 17 per cent on the expenditure figure for 1977.

Only once in the past 10 years has such a level of spending been realized and on only occasions in the past 21 years have such improved prospects of investment occurred.

These apparently encouraging prospects of substantially increased investment emerged yesterday in the latest quarterly survey conducted by the Department of Industry from a sample of manufacturing firms. It will undoubtedly be welcomed by the Government as further evidence that policies for the regeneration of manufacturing industry through the elaborate tripartite fiscal strategy is beginning to work.

But the projections are based on a survey of intentions and Whitehall statisticians are only too keenly aware of the perils of forecasting the levels of spending in industry.

Indeed the latest projection spending levels next year reflects a considerable downward revision of estimates for that year made only three months ago by the Department of Industry when it indicated spending next year by British manufacturing companies would rise by 20 per cent or more.

A year ago in the intentions for 1977 the Department of Industry was forecasting a rise in spending this year of between 15 and 20 per cent.

But investment hopes faded materialize on that scale. On basis of the latest returns, Whitehall now expects that the rate of investment by

manufacturing industry this year will be about 7 per cent higher than was last year.

Again this reflects a cut in previous estimates made by the department. The previous survey which was conducted in April and May indicated a rise in spending this year of between 6 and 10 per cent.

However, the relatively depressed level of spending in the first half of the year and an expected rise of 9 per cent in the second six months compared with the first half has caused the statisticians to revise their projections for the year as a whole to the lower end of their earlier estimates.

The latest survey is based on a sample of manufacturing firms. It will undoubtedly be welcomed by the Government as further evidence that policies for the regeneration of manufacturing industry through the elaborate tripartite fiscal strategy is beginning to work.

Contrary to the predictions made a year ago, which foreshadowed a particularly sharp rise by metal manufacturing industry—the latest survey noted that a "significant fall" was expected in that sector.

This is largely the result of the cutbacks on investment being implemented by the British Steel Corporation. The BSC is facing huge losses and may be forced to abandon some of the larger projects incorporated in its 10-year development plan.

The latest evidence suggests that spending this year may be closer to 5 per cent, however, amounting to £2,070m in constant (1970) prices with an outturn level for manufacturing this year of £1,770m in constant prices.

Nuclear expert will head boilermaking industry

By Roger Vievoe
In Ron Campbell, who has advised the construction of Britain's only two operating advanced gas cooled reactors (AGRs) has been lured away from the state-owned Nuclear Power Company to head a structured boilermaking industry which expects to be leading another generation of R.

On November 1, Mr Campbell, the assistant managing director of NPC, will become executive director of the company which will be merged into the boilermaking industry.

Mr Campbell is well known to the top people at the CEBGB, who have intimated that they would be very happy with his appointment.

Mr Campbell, who is 52, joined the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority in 1958 and during a 10-year career worked on the AGRs, high temperature reactors, the steam generating heavy water reactor and the fast reactor.

In 1968 he joined The Nuclear Power Group (TNP) as director of general manager and played a leading part in the contracts for the AGR stations at Hinkley "B" in Somerset and Hunterston "B" in Scotland, which are now operating successfully.

When TNP was merged into NPC, Mr Campbell continued his work on the AGR side of the business as assistant managing director.

The new company is expected to be formed by the end of the year, and in the meantime Mr

Gilt fall after early gains

By David Morris
Ordinary shares and government stocks reacted from a start on the London stock market yesterday. The slump most pronounced in gilts were continued overseas despite brought early gains of as much as £2 in some cases as pound went ahead again.

At the opening of the London Party conference introduced a note of caution, and the buyers withdrew the profit taking. After last week's hefty gains the profit taking was regarded as inevitable.

turn round as much as £3 leaving them a full point down over the session.

The FT ordinary share index, closed 5 points up, early in the day, at 520.1.

Dealers said the leading industrial issues were largely neglected, but there was a strong if selective demand for second line issues like consumers, merchant banks and tea shares.

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Sir Derek hopeful on exports to EEC

By Melvyn Westlake

Within a couple of years Britain could eliminate its deficit with the European Economic Community on its trade in manufactured goods, according to Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the European Trade Committee, the Area Advisory Group of the British Overseas Trade Board, and head of the National Coal Board.

He was speaking at a lunch in London in advance of a national conference being held at the Wembley Conference Centre on November 29 to promote exports to Western Europe.

The conference will be opened by Sir Frederick Catherwood, chairman of the BOTC and chaired by Sir Derek Mr Dell, the Secretary of State for Trade, is also expected to attend.

Sir Derek said yesterday that since 1974 there had been an improvement in the balance of trade in manufacturing with Western Europe. This followed a decade in which Britain's deficit in this sector had become steadily more adverse.

Since 1952, the proportion of Britain's exports going to Western Europe had risen from just over 30 per cent to 52 per cent in 1976. At the same time, the proportion going to Commonwealth markets had dropped from 38 per cent to 15 per cent.

Sir Derek said that he was against allowing the exchange rate of the pound to rise against other currencies. This would introduce another element of uncertainty for our exporters.

Next month's conference, he said, will include case studies of the companies which have experienced and overcome some of the practical problems of exporting to Western Europe.

These are Marks & Spencer, Haworth Engineering, of Poole; Colt International, of Havant, Hampshire; and Bevan Funnell, of Newhaven, Sussex.

Exporting to Western Europe, 1977, is the culmination of a series of Export Dynamics Conferences held throughout Britain during the past two years. Between 6,000 and 10,000 companies have been invited to attend.



Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr Gordon Borrie and Mr Charles Williams at yesterday's seminar : measures

Hint of Price and Monopolies merger

By Patricia Tindall

The possibility of an amalgamation of the Price Commission with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission was discussed at a seminar on the new price code in London yesterday. Speaking about the possible overlapping functions of the two organisations, Mr Charles Williams, chairman of the Price Commission, said that in his view a fusion was "more of a question of administration than principle".

Since some 700 sectors of British industry had been identified as containing potential monopolies, it was not possible for the Monopolies Commission alone to investigate all of them under its present structure and method of working.

Mr Gordon Borrie, director of the Office of Fair Trading, thought that "the present roles of the two commissions are complementary". He added that it was a mistake to think that, after the creation of

the new Price Commission, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission had been left with little to do.

"Fusion may well be desirable in due course," said Mr Borrie, "but I think it is worth making two points on this. Firstly, the MMC is a body of 30 years' experience and, although no one in industry likes the burden of an MMC inquiry, few would dispute the thoroughness, fairness and judicial care it brings to bear on its work.

"Secondly, now the Price Commission has been reconstituted, further institutional change should not be made before there is adequate experience of its work."

The Price Commission, even though it examined the relationship between price levels and anti-competitive practices in a certain sector of industry, was essentially concerned with making a judgement only as to whether current or proposed price levels were justified.

The Monopolies Commission

had frequently been asked to look deeper, or examine the structure of an industry and to investigate anti-competitive practices which were not necessarily concerned immediately with price levels. These included practices such as refusals to supply and exclusive dealing arrangements.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer and one of the architects of the first phase of price controls, commented that "price control must be seen as being on its way out".

He added that "Coexistence of the Price Commission and the Monopolies Commission must be seen as difficult to achieve on a long-term basis".

Examining the operation of new price controls, Mr Williams said companies were having to spend too much time to comply with the system. He is meeting the Confederation of British Industry next week to see if it can be simplified.

Imports force cuts in US steel prices

Pittsburgh, Oct 3.—Because of heavy competition from low-price imports, American domestic steel prices have been softening in recent months, compounding the industry's profit problems, a spokesman for the United States Steel Corporation said.

Steel buyers report that in response to the competitive pressure, big domestic mills are selling some steel at below list prices, either directly or through distributors.

These buyers claim the discounts that are available on a wide range of products, including sheet, an item that has been buoyed by consumer-goods demand most of this year and last.

The import pressure comes on top of an already sluggish domestic steel market. Capital spending demand for heavy steel products continues to lag behind industry hopes, and car makers' demand for lighter,

stainless-rolled products has been one of the few consistent bright spots.

With profits down in this uncertain market, many steelmakers have taken harsh belt-tightening steps in recent weeks, including plant closings and lay-offs.

An action by the Carter administration to restrict steel imports could ease the industry's pricing pressure, even if demand remains somewhat sluggish.

Voluntary liquidation for Liberian tanker concern

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

Phillips Petroleum confirmed yesterday that a shipping company in which it has an interest had declared itself insolvent. The company is the Liberian-based Multinational Gas and Petrochemical which is involved in the transport of liquefied petroleum gases and chemicals.

The oil company holds a 43.5 per cent interest in Multinational through its subsidiary Phillips Inc., with the balance of shares in the company held by the French concern, Societe Anonyme de Géranier et d'Armements

Kenya coffee crop sets new record at £250m

From Our Correspondent Nairobi, Oct 3

Normally, a record crop such as that achieved for 1975-76 would be followed by a smaller crop. But exceptionally good rains fell at the end of 1976 and throughout most of this year, producing an unprecedented increase in the output of coffee.

Although market prices have fallen considerably from earlier levels—last week's Nairobi coffee auction averaged about £1.235 a ton, or much less than half the ton achieved earlier this year—the average for the crop year is still about £2,800 a ton, which is much higher than last year's average price.

This is about two and a half times the figure earned for the previous season's crop, and coffee earnings are the main component in the wave of prosperity now affecting Kenya.

CSA survey to support export proposals

Computer news

and the adoption of double deductions for export costs for tax purposes.

According to Department of Industry statistics, work for foreign clients accounted for about £12m of the computer sector's industry's total £223m in 1976, or between 5 per cent and 6 per cent.

Something similar to the existing Software Products Scheme, under which the Government contributes half the cost of development, might be desirable, the CSA president suggested later.

Other possible forms of assistance would include a reduction (from the present £10m) in the contract value on which the Government can contribute 50 per cent of the cost of bidding on overseas projects; more easily arranged performance guarantees through the Export Credits Guarantee Department;

puter (functionally equivalent to an IBM 370/158) for its Burgess Hill computer centre. This is the first sale by Trel of an Advanced System in the United Kingdom.

According to Mr Len Rawle, UCSL chairman, the decision was based principally on cost-performance considerations, and involved extensive comparative studies.

Tesco's mini
Tesco, the supermarket group, is to use a Computer Automation minicomputer to control the receipt, allocation, transfer and loading of "Home 'n' Wear" goods at the group's warehouse in Milton Keynes. This warehouse holds about £10m worth of stock.

The system automatically allocates goods received (by issuing pallet tickets) instructing the forklift drivers where to store the goods; and transfers the correct amount of already stored goods to a special area where the are loaded on to delivery vans according to picking lists generated by the company's ICL 19045 mainframe computer at Cheshunt.

UCSL chooses Itel
Unilever Computer Services Ltd (UCSL) has ordered an Itel Advance System AS/51 com-

puter (functionally equivalent to an IBM 370/158) for its Burgess Hill computer centre. This is the first sale by Trel of an Advanced System in the United Kingdom.

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Braille production
A computer-based system for the production of braille literature has been ordered by the Royal National Institute for the Blind. This includes two GEC 4070 computers, Lynwood input and text-editing visual-display terminals, and braille editing terminals developed by Sigma Electronic Systems.

The equipment will be used in the RNIB's new printing centre to speed publication of an increased range of braille books and periodicals for educational, vocational and recreational purposes.

Operators at 16 text-entry terminals will key in text from

English originals. The computer system will translate this into braille output coded on to magnetic tape cassettes. These will control embossing machines which punch the braille characters on to zinc plates suitable for use on printing presses.

Turnover
The system automatically allocates goods received (by issuing pallet tickets) instructing the forklift drivers where to store the goods; and transfers the correct amount of already stored goods to a special area where the are loaded on to delivery vans according to picking lists generated by the company's ICL 19045 mainframe computer at Cheshunt.

In addition the user can simulate the effect of various production plans on existing and expected stock levels.

Kenneth Owen

100m worth of stock.

Mr Peter Merrick of Lowndes-Ajax Computer Service, the newly elected president of the CSA, told members last week that the association would welcome a more general extension of the principle of government support for exports indicated by the National Enterprise Board's Insac scheme (which involves companies in which the NEB holds an equity stake).

Something similar to the existing Software Products Scheme, under which the Government contributes half the cost of development, might be desirable, the CSA president suggested later.

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John Foord

plant and machinery valuers

Stock Exchange Prices

Weaker at the close

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Oct 3. Dealings End, Oct 14. § Contango Day, Oct 17. Settlement Day, Oct 25

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

John Foord

chartered surveyors

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last cancellation' on
Saturday. On all cancellations a
copy of the original copy of the
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PLEASE CHECK YOUR
AD. We make every
effort to avoid errors in
advertisements. Each
one is carefully checked
and proof read. When
thousands of advertisements
are handled each day
mistakes do occur
and we ask therefore
that you check your ad
and, if you spot an
error, report it to
the Classified Queries
department immediately
by telephoning 01-837
1234 (Ext. 7180). We
regret that we cannot be
responsible for more
than one day's incorrect
insertion if the ad do not
fit.

"A friend length at all times, and
a brother is born for adversity."—
Proverbs 17: 17.

BIRTHS

ALLEN—On 25th September, at
H.M. Hospital, to Susan (nee
Theodore) and Peter J. Allen,
daughter (Peter) Janet, a
son (Peter) Alexander (Peter),
a daughter (Peter) Philippa (Peter),
a son (Peter) Philip (Peter),
a daughter (Peter) Margaret (Peter),
a son (Peter) Alan (Peter).

COX—On September 27th, to
Carole and Alan Cox, a son (Peter),
a daughter (Peter) Margaret (Peter).

HARRIS—On October 3rd, at
H.M. Hospital, to Linda and
Lorraine (Peter) (Peter), a son
(Peter) (Peter) (Peter).

EVANS—On September 30th, at
Tevessa, Wimbleton, to Linda
(Peter) (Peter) (Peter) and
Ronald (Peter) (Peter), a son
(Peter) (Peter) (Peter).

FEATHERS—On September 23, at
H.M. Hospital, to Peter and
Anne (Peter) (Peter), a son
(Peter) (Peter) (Peter).

FRASER—On October 1st, at the
Lido Wing, St. Mary's Paddington,
a son (Peter) (Peter) (Peter).

HARRIS—On September 24, at
H.M. Hospital, to Peter and
Muriel (Peter) (Peter), a son
(Peter) (Peter) (Peter).

MAURICE—On September 25, at
H.M. Hospital, to Peter and
Muriel (Peter) (Peter), a son
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